

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ARCADIS Awarded Contract to Review Bay-Delta Conservation Plan**

*Independent Contractor will assist Council in statutorily required role*

Sacramento – The Delta Stewardship Council (Council) today (July 27) announced that it has selected ARCADIS U.S., Inc. to assist the Council with its statutorily required review of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), and companion Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

The independent consultant will review information and recommendations prepared by the BDCP Steering Committee from its creation in 2006 through 2011. As a responsible agency, the Council, with assistance from the independent consultant, will participate in a detailed review of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

“The Council selected ARCADIS, U.S. because of the firm’s qualifications and because it has not been involved with the BDCP process,” said Council Chair Phil Isenberg. “ ARCADIS is a world leader in finding environmental and infrastructure solutions and because they meet the criteria as independent technical experts.”

ARCADIS is an international company based in the Netherlands (founded 1888), with offices in California, and Sacramento, providing consultancy, design, engineering and management

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*"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."*

– CA Water Code §85054

services in infrastructure, water, environment and construction. With 15,000 employees and more than \$2.4 billion in annual revenues, ARCADIS has extensive experience managing climate-related challenges in places such as the flood prone Netherlands and drought stricken Australia. ARCADIS also has extensive experience in the United States, with work on the Chesapeake Bay, the Florida Everglades and the Mississippi Delta.

“The Council believes this first-hand work with demanding habitats and serious ecosystem problems will help immensely in the independent evaluation of the BDCP,” Isenberg said.

ARCADIS, U.S. will begin work immediately. The company will monitor all BDCP and BDCP EIR/EIS meetings and technical documents drafted to date, and serve as an expert independent resource for the Council and staff. Duties will include providing updates, answering questions, and providing technical interpretation as the Council reviews development of the BDCP for inclusion into the Delta Plan being developed by the Council.

The Council was established as an independent state agency by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009. Its primary duty, mandated by Water Code Section 85054, is to develop and adopt by Jan.1, 2012, a comprehensive resource management plan for the Delta that furthers the coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem.

New state law requires the Council to consult with the state and federal agencies conducting a environmental review of the BDCP (the “responsible agency” role) and to incorporate the BDCP into the Delta Plan only if it meets certain environmental requirements. Those requirements include a determination by the California Department of Fish and Game that the BDCP qualifies as a Natural Community Conservation Plan. “The Department of Fish and Game’s determination that the BDCP has met the requirements of this section may be appealed to the council,” Section 85320 (e).

To assist in the BDCP environmental review and possible appeal, the Council agreed to hire an independent consultant that has not previously been involved in the BDCP. The independent consultant will directly advise the Council on the BDCP process and its relationship to, and consistency with, the Delta Plan. The independent consultant will also advise the Council in its role as an appellate body.

ARCADIS was selected from among eight companies following a review of qualifications (RFQ) process over the past two months conducted by the Council committee of Randy Fiorini and Patrick Johnston. The Council then voted unanimously to move forward with ARCADIS at its July meeting. Department of Water Resources (DWR) rules prohibited release of the name of the winning bidder until the contract was signed.

The ARCADIS experts will include:

- **Larry Roth, GE** will serve as the ARCADIS principal-in-charge. Mr. Roth has recently joined ARCADIS after serving for 10 years as the executive vice president of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Mr. Roth was chief-of-staff for ASCE's Hurricane Katrina External Review Panel (ERP), assembled in 2005 at the request of the Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Roth has nearly two decades of experience on California Water Resources projects.

**Robert Pyke, PhD, GE** will serve as the project manager and the task leader for water conveyance and levee issues. Dr. Pyke is a nationally and internationally recognized expert on geotechnical and earthquake engineering and is well-regarded by a wide range of Delta stakeholders. Dr Pyke was born and raised in Australia and worked for the Australian government on water resource engineering projects prior to coming to California to attend graduate school. He maintains close connections with former colleagues in Australia who have been involved in both the development of Australia new water rights and water marketing systems and the development of the new Murray Darling Basin Plan. For the last 25 years he has lived in Contra Costa County and has closely followed California Water and Delta policy issues over that time period.

**Lucas Paz, PhD** will serve as task leader for ecological systems analysis and restoration. Dr. Paz is a hydrologist with over 18 years of professional experience in surface water hydrology & hydraulics, flood control, storm water management, erosion control, groundwater dynamics, wetland processes, soil-water characteristics, and site-development planning. He is an analytically

based scientist and has been responsible for the preparation of numerous hydrologic and hydraulic investigations including development of engineering design of structural treatment control measures/best management practices (BMPs), surface water modeling studies, storm water management plans, environmental impact assessments, mitigation and monitoring programs, and associated regulatory compliance studies/reports.

- **Mike Urkov** will serve as task leader for the review of environmental assessment and documentation with a focus on assuring compliance with applicable regulations, legal defensibility, and implementation. Mr. Urkov has a demonstrated record of successful projects across these three areas and can help qualify that the BDCP EIS/EIR is a functional document. He has successfully managed large, complex environmental projects that span the breadth of water resources issues, including fisheries, water rights, water conservation, and watershed management.
- **Peter Wijsman** will serve as assistant project manager and overall facilitator and point of contact for Dutch input. Mr. Wijsman started his career with ARCADIS in the Netherlands and transferred to San Francisco in 2008. Currently he is serving as a technology bridge between the ARCADIS water management practices in the Netherlands and California. In addition he is also involved in projects in the Houston/Galveston Area, New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta, New York and the Florida Everglades. Last year he completed a study on climate change adaptation strategies for shoreline development along San Francisco Bay. Mr. Wijsman conducted research for his Master's thesis at UC Davis working with the CALFED program.

Visit ARCADIS at: [www.arcadis.com](http://www.arcadis.com) and [www.arcadis-us.com](http://www.arcadis-us.com). More information about the Council, the Delta Plan, and the RFQ submittals is at [www.deltacouncil.ca.gov](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov)

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